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"Lynden Ambassadors to Europe Sip Coffee with Netherlands Queen", n.d.

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Lynden Ambassadors To Europe Sip Coffee With Netherlands Queen

Curtsying before the Queen of the Netherlands and joining her in a cup of coffee highlighted the first lap of Lynden ambassadors, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Le Cocq's travels in Europe.

The Lynden lawyer wrote the Tribune this week giving the following account of his visit with the Queen:

After stopping a couple of days in Chicago, New York and Philadelphia, we took passage on the S. S. Noordam of the old established line—Holland-America line. We had a fine trip on a beautiful ship with fine food and pleasant fellow passengers. In Chicago we spent a day with Mr. and Mrs. Raft, the latter a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Bauman. They have a very beautiful home in a suburb of Chicago. In New Jersey we spent a day or two with Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo, the latter my wife's sister. He and I went deep sea fishing a day and we caught several pergies, a fish I had never seen before.

We have been in Amsterdam about one week. The first people we met were Mr. and Mrs. A. Troost, friends of Mr. and Mrs. Govert Van Weerdhuizen of Lynden. He showed us much of the beautiful farm land between Amsterdam and the north sea coast. It would take many pages to adequately describe the wonderful farm lands here, and the beautiful herds of Holstein cows. Never have I seen such well kept farms and barns, and highly bred cattle. The land all tilled and level as a floor; the homes all brick, and barns of paneled concrete construction, and fields all a luscious green, and covered with high yielding crops of wheat, oats, flax, sugar beets and other foods. I was surprised that so many farms were of good size. The government is building up large areas, with beautiful farm homes and barns, and renting them to young farm families.

Amsterdam is the most unique city I ever saw. Like the farms, the land on which the city is built was once reclaimed from the sea. The city of a million or more, is literally honey-combed with deep canals, on which small boats, both passenger and freight, ply day and night. There are many very old churches, municipal and other buildings.

There are many museums where the paintings of the noted artists,

such as Rembrandt, Hals, De Gelder and numerous others are exhibited. We also visited the old home of Reimbrandt, now a municipal museum.

We made a trip to Spakenburg where the residents, the women and children especially, wear the old quaint costumes. Many of the men wear wooden shoes. But these are not seen in the cities. Then we drove through the ancient city of Leiden, where the famous University is located, noted in history for its resistance and ultimate victory in the Spanish Eighty Year war.

On Thursday, Aug. 20th, we were presented to her Majesty Juliana, Queen of the Netherlands. Under an arrangement made prior to our leaving Lynden, and at the request of Consul General Van Karmenbeek, and Hon. A. Vander Spek, consul of the Netherlands at Seattle, we were to deliver a letter from my brother, Irwin, as Mayor of Lynden, bringing greetings of Lynden to her Majesty in connection with the donations of the people of Lynden to victims of the great flood, when thousands of homes were destroyed and many people killed as the great dikes broke and ocean waters rushed in. We were driven by auto to the Royal palace at Soest Dyk, the summer home of the queen. The guards at the entrance gate seemed to know of our coming for we were immediately admitted to the grounds. On the steps of the Palace we were greeted by Baron Van Heeckeren, private secretary to Her Majesty, and conducted to the reception room. He showed us the priceless paintings in this room, many of them of Napoleonic days. At a given signal we were then conducted to the second floor and to the south wing where the queen has her residence. We were received very graciously. I presented the letter of the Mayor and briefly spoke to her about the efforts of Dr. Kintner and Mr. Howell, who headed the Flood Relief committee of Lynden, and extended to her the greetings and good wishes of the people of Lynden. She then requested us to be seated, and after some personal conversation, she herself poured coffee. She spoke about the many and wonderful contributions made by communities all over the United States; the deep and abiding friendship existing between the two nations, and

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Travelers Meet Holland Queen

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requested us to convey to the Lynden community the heartfelt gratitude of herself and her nation.

On our way back to Amsterdam we were driven past some of the destroyed areas where the Germans bombed during the war. We saw many evidences of the German occupation. We note much war hatred towards the defeated enemy, and we can understand the reasons when we see the havoc left by the war.

We are leaving Monday for Denmark and England. We expect to go from there to France, Switzerland, Luxemburg, Germany and Italy and then back to Rotterdam to catch our boat for the U. S. A.